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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 4, 1992 -- Railroad freight traffic showed strong gains during the week ended May 30 from the comparable week last year, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Carload traffic was up 6.5 percent for the week, totalling 302,987 cars, with volume up 8.0 percent in the East and 5.0 percent in the West. Intermodal volume, which is not included in carloads, totaled 113,250 containers and trailers, up 10.1 percent. Ton-miles were estimated at 18.7 billion, up 8.1 percent from last year. Both the 1992 and 1991 weeks included the Memorial Day holiday.

"Once again the increase in carloadings is leading the recorded national growth figures," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's economics and finance department. "But," he cautioned, "the increase may be somewhat influenced by the anticipation of a possible rail strike later this month."

Among commodities registering solid gains were coke (38.0 percent), metallic ores (21.3 percent), motor vehicles and equipment (13.4 percent) and chemicals (11.0 percent). "It is heartening to see the 4.0 gain in coal traffic, which has been down most of this year," Dr. Levine added.

For the first 22 weeks of 1992, the AAR estimated total rail freight traffic at 447.9 billion ton-miles, up 5.2 percent from the comparable period in 1991. Intermodal traffic totaled 2,716,260 trailers and containers, up 8.9 percent. Railroads originated 7,071,508 carloads, up 2.6 percent from 1991.

Reporting railroads account for 94 percent of total rail freight traffic and 97 percent of intermodal.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 30, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MAY 30, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	18,508	19,046	-2.8 %	21,006	-11.9 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,974	1,748	12.9	2,259	-12.6
Metallic Ores	19,523	16,100	21.3	19,408	0.6
Coal	112,094	107,819	4.0	124,822	-10.2
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	11,964	12,419	-3.7	14,786	-19.1
Nonmetallic Minerals	8,748	7,541	16.0	9,607	-8.9
Grain Mill Products	9,148	9,356	-2.2	9,743	-6.1
Food & Kindred Products	7,962	7,703	3.4	9,284	-14.2
Primary Forest Products	8,399	7,861	6.8	9,708	-13.5
Lumber & Wood Products	5,603	5,951	-5.8	6,258	-10.5
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	11,142	10,553	5.6	10,712	4.0
Chemicals	27,093	24,400	11.0	29,873	-9.3
Petroleum Products	5,041	4,156	21.3	5,844	-13.7
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	8,985	8,237	9.1	10,235	-12.2
Coke	6,689	4,848	38.0	5,867	14.0
Metals & Products	9,153	8,671	5.6	9,228	-0.8
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	16,606	14,649	13.4	20,419	-18.7
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,183	7,008	16.8	9,137	-10.4
All Other Carloads	6,172	6,315	-2.3	7,420	-16.8
Total	302,987	284,381	6.5 %	335,616	-9.7 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING MAY 30, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 22 WEEKS ENDING MAY 30, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	302,987	284,381	6.5 %	7,071,508	6,893,311	2.6 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	56,614	51,660	9.6	1,346,125	1,289,290	4.4
Containers	56,636	51,242	10.5	1,370,135	1,204,491	13.8
Total	113,250	102,902	10.1	2,716,260	2,493,781	8.9
Estimated Ton-Miles Class I Railroads (Billions)	18.7	17.3	8.1 %	447.9	425.9	5.2 %

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